

**Pamela Pitzer Willeford**

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Pamela Willeford served as United States Ambassador to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein from October 2003 until May 2006. Before her term as ambassador, she devoted her career to developing education policy and promoting community service in Texas. She completed eight years of service on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which is charged with overseeing all public post-secondary education in Texas. She chaired the board for five years; and, under her leadership, the Board developed a comprehensive higher education plan for the state called "Closing the Gaps by 2015." The plan is directed at closing education gaps within Texas, as well as between Texas and other U.S. states.

She serves as the Chair of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries, raising awareness and money to provide assistance to the neediest schools across the country. She is currently chairing a special project for Mrs. Bush through the foundation to assist rebuilding of school libraries in the Gulf Coast region destroyed by the 2005 hurricanes. She also serves as President of the 85-thousand member Ex-Students' Association of the University of Texas at Austin and as a member of the College for All Texans Foundation and the board of Texans for Higher Education. She was a member of the Secretary of Education's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. She is co-chair of the 2009 Texas Medal of Arts Awards of the Texas Cultural Trust, and Vice-Chair of the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund, formed to restore the National Historic Landmark after it was destroyed by fire in June 2008. She is also a member of the boards of the Austin Crime Commission and the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

She has been involved in numerous civic organizations, including serving as the president of the Junior League of Austin, as well as board or leadership positions with Friends of the Governor's Mansion, The Helping Hand Home for Children, SafePlace, The Hockaday School, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Trinity Episcopal School, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, and the Texas Book Festival. Ambassador Willeford co-chaired and chaired the 2000 and 2003 Texas Gubernatorial Inaugurations; she also served as Director of Development for the State Preservation Board and directed rededication events for the restoration of the Texas State Capitol. She was awarded "Volunteer Extraordinaire" by the Junior League of Austin in 2002, "Woman of Distinction" from the Girl Scouts Lone Star Council in 2003, the Charles Alan Wright Award for Excellence by St. Andrew's School in 2006 and The Hockaday Medal from the Hockaday School in 2009.

Pamela Willeford grew up in Breckenridge, Texas, and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in English and Spanish. She has two adult children, Emily and Nancy Kate, and is married to Austin physician Dr. George Willeford, III. She and her sisters maintain their family business, Pico Drilling Co. Ltd in Breckenridge, Texas.